

Sunday afternoon, March 3, 1975

Dear Harold,

I just wanted to write and let you know that I have thought of you often and deeply the last few months, especially the last few days.

I am most regretful about the Federal District Court decision; though not surprised, neither am I dismayed. Knowing that Ray has such a competent and dedicated team as Jim Lesar, Bud, and especially you, I am still hopeful and grateful that the ends of justice will yet be served, in a case that has become of utmost importance to me as well. As days go by, with each new development, I wish all the more that I could make a contribution to the effort, and be in the fight with you, and help to share the enormous burden that I know is yours. The amount of work, I am acutely aware, is staggering, and probably far greater in such a case as this.

As in my last letter, I am enclosing a check, this time only half as much as before, for you to use in your expenses, as needed. I withhold the greater amount in the hope of a dream I have had quite strongly of recent date. Aware that it has been well over two years since we were last together, (although our correspondence has helped to fill the void) and remembering the enormously productive work that we did together (actually you did, with a little help from me), I would like to send you yet another check to pay your expenses to make a trip this way, partly for your business, the rest for pleasure. There is a great deal that I can do to help you, and more all the time as my knowledge and understanding of the law and legal procedure steadily increases. I have many good ideas to discuss with you. Also, I would like so much for you to come and stay at my home in Long Beach, MS, which is a little over an hour's drive from N.O., now that I-10 is completed.

Please let me know when you can come, and I'll make all the arrangements. This is a very important trip, and I have not stressed that enough yet. I am, of course, acutely aware that with the increased pressure on time with filing the appeal, your schedule will be hectic and may not permit you to get away soon, but just let me know when, and it will cost you no money. However much time you can spend, a few days, a week or more, will be more than made up for in the results.

There are so many other things I want to talk with you about, especially your book Whitewash IV, which is brilliant, but I will save them for when we can get together. One thing you may not yet have heard. Dick Gregory is running for President on a third party again. Whether Mark Lane will run as his VP. (as he did in 68, I don't yet know). Anyway, Gregory says his chief issue will be the cover-up of the JFK-MLK-RFK assassinations, which were the work of the C.I.A. His evidence I am not completely aware of, but it consists primarily of the Zapruder film, and his own devastating invective against the government. I have a lot of respect for Gregory, and I hope he is not over his head, which he is if Lane is his main source of information. When I was working for Garrison, I was assigned as my principal task to research and compare all of the known facts about the three assassinations, with a view toward determining a possible connection ("a name, or a place," Bethell said) which could be fertile ground for further investigation. I did an enormous amount of work in this area, and by the end of August of 68 (after three months of digging), came to the conclusion that there was a tenuous link of similarities, a few names here and there, and always the city of New Orleans, and the C.I.A. I was assured repeatedly that I was the only one in the office working in this area, not because I wanted to be, but because I wanted someone to compare notes with.

So it came as something of a surprise when, in mid-July, I walked past a newsstand on Royal Street and was halted by a banner headline on one of the less respectable tabloids. I recall that ~~that~~ it said something like "JFK, King, RFK killings linked to C.I.A., says Mark Lane," and inside the story stated that the District Attorney's office in New Orleans had just informed him of new evidence reaching this startling conclusion. If anyone besides me were working on this, I never found them, and I did try. And I never fully reached the conclusion that all three killings were linked at all, much less to the C.I.A.

So Gregory stands on sinking sands if this is his foundation. But it is, I'm glad to say, the first respected and respectable black leader who has come out for a new probe, notwithstanding Mrs. King's naive suggestion that the Justice Dept. should re-open the case, which is like hiring a team of locusts to guard a corn crop. I have an excellent album that Gregory did at Kent State I'd like you to hear. I recently bought a new stereo set. It was expensive, but a friend got it for me at a big discount.

Well, I must go. I truly hope you are well, and know that my prayers are with you.

Oh, I almost forgot - Did you ever get any response from those books I asked you to send to Lott and Gonzalea? Please let me know whatever happened about that.

When time permits, I would really like to hear from you. And I hope it will not be long before we are together.

Let me know what I can be doing in the meantime. As for me, everything is fine. I am still staying in Jackson, still working at the library, and still going to the law school at night. It keeps life interesting.

Please take care of yourself, and I'll look forward to seeing you again, my good friend.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim".